

**OPINION 2289 (Case 3476)*****Dialictus* Robertson, 1902 and *Evylaeus* Robertson, 1902 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): proposed precedence not granted**

**Abstract.** A request to give the widely used halictine bee generic names *Dialictus* and *Evylaeus*, both proposed by Robertson (1902), precedence over the rarely used but older names *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897, *Sudila* Cameron, 1898 and *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899 whenever either of the former is considered to be a synonym of any of the latter has not been supported by the Commission.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; HALICTIDAE; *Dialictus*; *Evylaeus*; *Paralictus*; *Hemihalictus*; *Sudila*; *Sphecodogastra*; *Lasioglossum*; *Dialictus anomalus*; *Evylaeus arcuatus*; *Paralictus cephalicus*; *Hemihalictus lustrans*; *Sudila bidentata*; *Sphecodogastra texana*; halictine bees; sweat bees; cosmopolitan.

**Ruling**

- (1) A request to give precedence to the halictine bee generic names *Dialictus* and *Evylaeus*, both proposed by Robertson (1902), over the older names *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897, *Sudila* Cameron, 1898 and *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899 has not been supported by the Commission.
- (2) No names are placed on the Official Lists or Indexes in this ruling.

**History of Case 3476**

An application to conserve standard usage of the widely used halictine bee generic names *Dialictus* and *Evylaeus*, both proposed by Robertson in 1902, by giving precedence over the rarely used but older names *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897, *Sudila* Cameron, 1898 and *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899 whenever these names are considered to be synonyms, was received from Jason Gibbs (*York University, ON, Canada*), John S. Ascher (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, U.S.A.*) and Laurence Packer (*York University, ON, Canada*) on 6 October 2008. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 66(2): 147–158 (2009). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case. The Case was originally sent for vote on 1 June 2010 (VP 12). A majority of Commissioners voted FOR the Case (13 For, 10 Against, 1 Split), but it failed to meet the two-thirds majority required for approval. In accordance with the bylaws, the case was sent for a revote, with a modified set of proposals as follows:

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the names *Dialictus* Robertson, February 1902 and *Evylaeus* Robertson, September 1902 be given priority over *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897, *Sudila* Cameron, 1898 and *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899 whenever either of the former is considered to be a synonym of any of the latter;

- (2) to emend the entry on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology for the following name: *Dialictus* Robertson, 1902 (gender: masculine) (type species, by original designation and monotypy: *Halictus anomalus* Robertson, 1892), with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897, *Sudila* Cameron, 1898 and *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899 in addition to *Paralictus* Robertson, 1901, whenever it and any of the other three are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *Evylaeus* Robertson, 1902 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Halictus arcuatus* Robertson, 1893, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897, *Sudila* Cameron, 1898 and *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899 whenever it and any of the other three are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897 (gender: masculine) (type species by original designation and monotypy *Panurgus lustrans* Cockerell, 1897), with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Dialictus* Robertson, 1902 or *Evylaeus* Robertson, 1902 when it is considered to be a synonym of either;
  - (c) *Sudila* Cameron, 1898 (gender: feminine) (type species by designation of Sandhouse, 1943 *Sudila bidentata* Cameron, 1898), with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Dialictus* Robertson, 1902 or *Evylaeus* Robertson, 1902 when it is considered to be a synonym of either of them;
  - (d) *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899 (gender: feminine) (type species by monotypy and original designation *Sphecodes texana* Cresson, 1872), with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Dialictus* Robertson, 1902 or *Evylaeus* Robertson, 1902 when it is considered to be a synonym of either;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Species Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *cinctipes* Provancher, 1888, as published in the binomen *Halictus cinctipes*, senior subjective synonym of *Halictus arcuatus* Robertson, 1893 (valid specific name of the type species of *Evylaeus* Robertson, 1902);
  - (b) *lustrans* Cockerell, 1897, as published in the binomen *Panurgus lustrans* (specific name of the type species of *Hemihalictus* Cockerell, 1897);
  - (c) *bidentata* Cameron, 1898, as published in the binomen *Sudila bidentata* (specific name of the type species of *Sudila* Cameron, 1898);
  - (d) *texana* Cresson, 1872, as published in the binomen *Halictus texana* (specific name of the type species of *Sphecodogastra* Ashmead, 1899).

Since Case 3476 was published, a revision of the metallic species of *Lasioglossum* (*Dialictus*) in Canada (Hymenoptera, HALICTIDAE, HALICTINI) was published in *Zootaxa*, **2591**: 1–382 (2010).

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2011 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the modified proposals as above (original proposals published in BZN **66**: 154–155). At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2011 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 13: Ballerio, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Pape, Papp, Rosenberg, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 11: Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Kojima, Kottelat, Kullander, Krell, Lamas, Minelli, Ng, Patterson and van Tol.

Alonso-Zarazaga, Lim, Pyle and Štys were on leave of absence.

Voting AGAINST, Bouchet said he stood with the comments he made on the first round: The proposals offered for vote were, in his opinion, a recipe for long-term nomenclatural instability. In the short term, as all the names involved were in use, application of priority would admittedly disrupt some habits, but then stability will not be impacted by taxonomic opinions. Also voting AGAINST, Kojima commented that with these proposals the authors seemed to support their taxonomic opinions rather than seeking to promote nomenclatural stability. Kullander, voting AGAINST, said this was a very long and complex application. Under item 10 it said that 'Current usage of the names *Dialictus* and *Evylaeus* results in a nomenclatural problem. . .' Consequently, his impression was that priority should be preferred in a group with dynamic taxonomy. Usage of *Dialictus* seemed limited (122 uses in ISI Web of Knowledge, August 2011), as was that of *Evylaeus* (154 uses). The plethora of subgenera looked less preferable than the older synonyms. Ng, voting AGAINST, said he had originally voted FOR but after talking with more entomologists and re-reading the Case, he was inclined to change his vote. He agreed that the Case was complicated and there were a large number of names involved; but the taxonomy was changing. He did not see clearly how a positive decision by the Commission would be helpful when taxonomy was unresolved and that any vote at this stage was perhaps premature.

No names are placed on the Official Lists or Indexes in this ruling.